



# Feds may join panel's freeway clash

**Kerry Fehr-Snyder**

The Arizona Republic

Apr. 23, 2007 12:00 AM

Maricopa County leaders aren't the only ones jumping into the South Mountain Freeway fight.

The Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee tonight will discuss sending letters to federal, state and local leaders seeking answers about the effects of building the proposed 22-mile freeway. The meeting will be at the Pecos Community Center, 17010 S. 48th St., Phoenix.

Committee Chairman Doug Cole said that the group will "launch the letters" if its members agree tonight. The letters cover more than 100 public comments ranging from questions about emergency-evacuation plans for residents who rely on Pecos Road to bulldozing about 250 homes and boring through South Mountain Park.

Pecos Road is the only alignment being studied for the 10-lane freeway.

Last week, the executive committee of the Maricopa Association of Governments considered asking Gov. Janet Napolitano to negotiate with the Gila River Indian Community for an alternative route on tribal land.

Napolitano has been mum about her position on the Pecos alignment, even after MAG drafted a letter stating "we believe it would be helpful for your office to enter into negotiations" with the tribe to "determine if a portion of the freeway can be located on GRIC land."

## What do you think?

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Current Page: 1 of 6

Goto Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [Next](#)

## Your comments

John9169, you speak so matter-of-factly as if 'bad air' was the obvious answer. It's not. Melamine in the bee chow my man. (Greg8102, April 23, 2007 03:42PM)

virgil4771 wrote:

- > Improving mass transit will help. ... major complaint
- > is the amount of time it takes to go anywhere. To get
- > to the doctors office, less than 10 minutes by car,
- > takes close to an hour. To get to her other doctor,
- > 20 mins by car, takes close to 2 hours. ...

- > People do not want to take forever to get to where
- > they want to go. Light rail would be good. But, if
- > it stops every block, it will still take too long.

Bravo. At least there is one person in the Phoenix area who understands that light rail is *\*not\** going to do a thing for freeway congestion.

Light Rail is just an expensive bus on an expensive 'road' (rails). I've ridden it in LA, San Francisco, Portland, etc. It's always slow and only good for local travel.

Running high-speed rail down the middle of I-10 as someone else suggested; that's a totally different matter, but not being discussed *\*at all\** in Phoenix. (**Moritmer Snerd (Greg4216)**, April 23, 2007 01:59PM)

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Anthony 7713, sounds like a good idea but I think I'll just join whatever ministry Ted Haggard starts up here. We'll have plenty of weirdos right here at home. (**Phil5543**, April 23, 2007 01:30PM)

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Can I interest any of you in a home far far away from traffic or pollution. A little haven I would like to call Colorado City, AZ or its sister city just across the border in Utah. You might have to run off your boys when they compete for the ladies and marry off your daughters just after puberty. But at least there will be no traffic or pollution. (**THE TRUTH (Anthony7713)**, April 23, 2007 01:19PM)

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Andy1714 WE all have a roll in preventing Global Warming. It's that attitude that, "it's someone else's problem to deal with," which is what got us in this mess. The guy below is correct, the Bee's are dieing off, and crop growers from California to Florida are getting really neuvous. Why be concerened? Albert Einsten predicted that if all the bees in would would disapear then humankind would be wiped off the face of the earth in 4 years. What's contributing to the killing of the bee's? Bad air my man. (**John9169**, April 23, 2007 01:19PM)

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And the sky is falling too, and in another 10 years, the atmosphere will reach the boiling point....

Want to stop global warming? Go round up all the developers in Brazil and start executing to save what's left of the rain forests. That's where 40% of the earth's oxygen is generated, and more plant life consumes more CO2 (your green house gas that everyone is freaked out about). Science with a political agenda isn't science....

OK, I postjacked. Back on topic. (**Andy1714**, April 23, 2007 12:52PM)

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Andy Andy Andy. Indians comes from India. Unfortunately the "great" explorers thought the native Americans were from India. After all, he was trying to find a trade route? Remember? From school?

We as a country have been trying to "assimilate" the native Americans for our entire past. It's not going to happen, and they shouldn't need to. We are on THEIR land. We stole it from them. There is no other way to define it.

Your post reeks of racism. I have no guilty conscience, what's fair is fair. I will take your house and car... but who cares, cause your grandchildren don't care. What an idiotic argument. Did you go to college?(**russell923**, April 23, 2007 12:44PM)

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Why worry about it?

The bee population is rappidly deminishing because of different type of polution and the food supply will soon follow. We will have far more serious problems than politics and the road system.(**Eric2834**, April 23, 2007 11:59AM)

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.... a little self editing. "reparations"(**Phil5543**, April 23, 2007 11:52AM)

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Andy, Get your checkbook out YOU PERSONALLY owe for repatations too!(**Phil5543**, April 23, 2007 11:38AM)

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Hey Russell, that was 100 years ago, and it was a war that the natives lost. People like you who have a guilty conscience for things that happened far before our lifetimes will ensure that Indians never assimilate fully into our society as AMERICANS, and we'll continue giving them handouts of my hard earned money through taxes when I didn't do ANYTHING to them. And the Indians (I still call them that because I'm a NATIVE AMERICAN myself) who are alive today had nothing taken from them either.

All I'm asking is that laws that apply to one group, apply to others EQUALLY. You're advocating special treatment.

To your point of the freeway following the route of Pecos, I'd be OK with that, but it seems that the market value of that indian land next door is considerably less than the already developed land in Ahwatukee, and I'm looking for the most COST EFFECTIVE way out of this jamb that the developers got us all in.

(**Andy1714**, April 23, 2007 11:32AM)

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KLR: My brother in law lives in San Bernardino, CA and takes the commuter train to work in El Monte Ca. Its about 50 miles one way. He drives his car 15 minutes to the train station. I believe their top speed is 60 plus mile per hour. They have comfortable seats with television sets. He loves it. He reads the paper, drinks his coffee, sleeps and he gets to work a lot faster and saves money on gas. He said he would never go back to driving his car to work. All im saying is that just building more freeways is not the only was to move large amounts of people from point A to point B. We need to have more options.

Check out the Metro Links website:  
<http://www.metrolinktrains.com/>

Heres his route <http://www.metrolinktrains.com/stations/detail.php?id=122>  
(**Agusto3245**, April 23, 2007 11:29AM)

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Ahhhhh.....hmmmmmm..... If the governing bodies knew this freeway was a forgone conclusion as far back as 1988, and knew 55th ave was going to be the most logical choice, so far as, cost effectiveness issues are concerned, why is it land in laveen to the west of 51st ave, (including 55th ave and further west), over the last 5 years, has been sold to developers, commercial and housing? Will these new developments, even those that are

in the building process now, be required to "leave"?

Who the heck was sleeping on that one?(**kat5696**, April 23, 2007 11:09AM)

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Steve, you're right everybody has choices and different tolerance levels. That's why I moved to Northern Arizona a year ago.

The reasons that you moved weather, higher taxes, etc were out of your control. Its just frustrating to people that love Phoenix and know that we can do a better job of managing growth and cleaning up the air.

(**Agusto3245**, April 23, 2007 11:05AM)

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Hey Andy,

A while back, there was thing where all the Native Americans were pushed off their land. I think they called it Manifest Destiny. As in God gave the settlers the right to take the Native American's land... that must have sucked huh?

If they don't want to give an inch that's their prerogative. The same goes for building casinos. We should be careful not to ask them for anything, let alone more of their land.

As in Ahwatukee resident I know there is only one place for the freeway.. where Pecos is. It's always been the plan. I'm sorry for the fellow Ahwatukeeans that didn't see it coming, but they should have heard it about by now.

(**russell923**, April 23, 2007 11:03AM)

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Current Page:1 of 6

Goto Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [Next](#)